

**Probate Committee
Judicial Conference of Indiana**

August 28, 2009
Minutes

1. Members present. The following members of the Committee were present: Robert Freese, Phillip Houk (by telephone), David Kolger (by telephone), Thomas Milligan, David Northam, Kathy Smith, and Susan Orr Henderson, Chair.
2. Staff present. Michelle C. Goodman provided the Committee with staff assistance.
3. Approval of minutes. The Committee approved the minutes from the June 2009 meeting.
4. Innovations in Probate. The Committee discussed additional topics and ideas regarding improving administration of guardianships. The Committee thought that courts needed help in following up with orders and instructions for reports, use of rule to show cause when appropriate, look for ways to provide counsel for indigent guardianship cases, look at what limitations should be in place for attorneys acting as PR or Trustee when they or their firm prepared the underlying documents. The Committee received an update from Mag. Houk on the Allen County Guardianship Program. The Committee also received an update on the Adult Guardianship Task Force. In addition, the Committee discussed the ability to follow problem-solving court model and the ability to conduct additional training and use senior judges to help track and follow-up on cases.
5. State Bar Probate Section. The Committee received the minutes from the last meeting of the Probate Section.
6. Probate Deskbook. The Committee began reviewing the draft revisions for the section on Adoptions. The Committee decided that if there are links to state health forms on-line to provide a link for that information, otherwise the state health forms should be removed from the book. The Committee also made revisions to section 4.01. The Committee determined that the remaining portion of the draft would be reviewed at the next meeting.
7. Future meetings. The remaining 2009 meeting schedule is: Friday, December 4, 2009, which will be held at the Indiana Judicial Center at 1:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle C. Goodman
Staff Attorney